

River's Edge Flower Farm

(Mrs. S. L. Hopkins)

Nuttall, Gloucester Co., Virginia

Telephone: Gloucester 3-2940

1955

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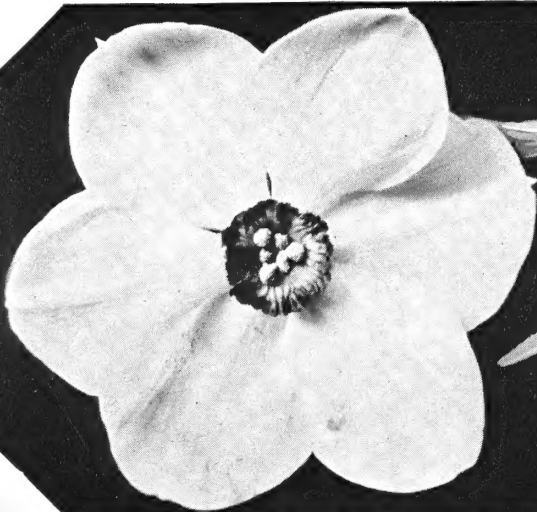
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ACTAEA (Small Cup Class)

Daffodils are Harvested at River's Edge Farm

Reprinted from the Richmond Times-Dispatch, April 1, 1951



Mrs. Selina Hopkins, of River's Edge Flower Farm, shows a basket of her choice daffodils gathered from her fields.



A Field of Daffodils on River's Edge Farm



Mrs. Hopkins Superintends Packing of Daffodils

BY—HAMILTON CROCKFORD
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

NUTTALL, VA., March 31 — Mrs. Selina L. Hopkins just about abandoned housekeeping a couple of weeks ago and took to gathering posies. Lunch will continue to be irregular or missing for three weeks yet.

It wasn't simply a walkout, or just Spring fever — although that had something to do with it:

The daffodils had it. Here in Gloucester County they were bursting into bloom again. (The daffodil show at Gloucester is on today and tomorrow.)

Everybody in Gloucester County has a daffodil patch. Mrs. Hopkins has some 15 acres of them.

Bread and Beauty

And since they supply her table with bread as well as beauty, picking posies in March for her has only an incidental resemblance to gathering nuts in May.

So, beauty being fragile, business on her "River's Edge" flower farm here, a couple of miles east of the court house, is bustling these days—everywhere except the kitchen.

Every clear morning the pickers show up at her fields. Every afternoon a truck shows up at her packing house for a shipment to go somewhere.

And every day, all day, an elderly widow turned business woman gets about to all corners of the place to supervise the operations from picking to packing.

If it's a frosty morning, the daffodils will have their heads down, and there's no picking then. But when

they look up and dance in glee like Wordsworth's, beside the North River here the nimble-fingered pickers must move fast.

Money for Pickers

[There's money in it for the pickers, while it lasts, at 2 cents per bunch of a dozen, 25 bunches to the basket, and some people picking 20 baskets in a day's working time, the owner observed.]

The job must be done by noon, if possible, Mrs. Hopkins noted, to leave enough time for cooling the flowers to stiffen their stems, and for packing before the truck comes. She drives her car out into the fields to direct the work.

The baskets go into troughs of water to stay until the stems are "cool to the hand." Then the packers take over, gently placing them 30, 36 or 50 bunches to the box, according to the size of the flower variety, and bracing it to be sure the blossoms don't bruise.

While this is going on, the phone may be ringing with a long distance order from somewhere, and Mrs. Hopkins will be off into the house to take it.

A daily broadcast of prices in New York is also "must" listening for her or her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hammer, who live with her, and grow more daffodils of their own.

Market Perishable

The market can be as perishable as a daffodil, if there's a temporary glut in one place: The New York price dropped from 50 cents a dozen on a Saturday to 10 cents by the next Thursday, they noted. They

shifted destinations accordingly, just before truck time.

Mrs. Hopkins, who moves unruffled through this melee, got into flower farming on her own rather later than most.

An aunt of actress Katherine Hepburn, she was born Selina Hepburn, the daughter of a Hanover County Episcopal minister, in 1878, and married N. S. Hopkins in 1900.

From general farming on his family's old place here, "Waverly," first owned by Philip Edward Tabb, he went into bulb growing seriously about 1922. He developed a couple of varieties himself. Meanwhile, Mrs. Hopkins observed with a smile, genealogy and Gloucester County history were her chief occupations.

But when her husband died in 1937, and her four children wondered what she ought to do, she decided simply. "It was the only living I had," she said. She turned to daffodils.

She'll be 73 on April 9, but it's easy to agree with her own summing up, that "getting outdoors with the flowers agreed with me."

She sells a dozen or so commercial varieties and a few boxes each year of an estimated 100 other varieties.

And while she'll be getting back to a little more housekeeping after about April 20, she won't tarry long at a time.

Has Bulb Trade

She's worked up a bulb trade, too, and does about as much business selling the increase of her bulbs in the Fall as selling flowers in Spring.

Selling only to home gardeners and florists rather than large wholesalers, she's shipped them now to every State except Montana, she said. (Everything goes out with a tag noting the bulbs were State-inspected and found free of the plaguesh ellworm and narcissus bulb fly. Hammer pointed out.) And she "grades bulbs with the boys all summer."

They have to be dug every one to four years, she noted, and where they grew, the fields must be planted alternately to soybeans and Winter clover, sometimes for two years, and these turned under, until the ground is right for bulbs again.

After cleaning, drying, chemical treating and curing, the bulbs for replanting go back in the ground from September to Christmas. It's a year-round business.

"The only time I get any peace at all is when I get them all patted down in the ground in the Winter," Selina Hopkins said,—"And then I have to work on my income tax."

But she was smiling at a cluster of her "Magnificence" when she said it.

Handmade Daffodil Mixtures

GLOUCESTER COUNTY MIXTURE. (Mixture No. 1.) A mixture of seven or more good varieties which are grown in large quantities for cut flowers in our section, includes King Alfred, Olympia, The First, Helios, Cheerfulness, Franciscus Drake, and others. \$4.95 per peck; \$18.50 per bu.; \$5.50 per 100.

RIVER'S EDGE NOVELTY MIXTURE. (Mixture No. 2.) Contains the above named varieties, also several others, such as Alcida, Actaea, Bonfire, and Brightling, making a total of ten or twelve varieties. \$5.45 per peck; \$20.00 per bushel; \$6.00 per 100.

ALL YELLOW MIXTURE. (Mixture No. 3.) Made up of King Alfred, Olympia, The First, and may include some other yellow daffodils with long or short cups. \$4.75 per peck; \$17.90 per bushel; \$5.35 per 100.

COLLECTION NO. 1

Actaea	Franciscus Drake	3 each of 10 varieties (30 bulbs).....	\$ 2.95
Alcida	Helios	6 each of 10 varieties (60 bulbs).....	5.25
Bonfire	King Alfred	12 each of 10 varieties (120 bulbs).....	8.50
Brightling	Olympia	25 each of 10 varieties (250 bulbs).....	15.50
Cheerfulness	The First		

MANGOSTEEN. (Below.) (Small Cup.) A magificent flower with a wide scarlet crown and golden yellow petals. Late. 3 for 65¢; \$2.00 per doz.; \$15.00 per 100.



CROCUS

Yellow. 80¢ per doz.; \$6.00 per 100.
White. 70¢ per doz.; \$5.00 per 100.
Sky-blue. 60¢ per doz.; \$4.50 per 100.
Purple. 60¢ per doz.; \$4.50 per 100.
Mixed. 25 for \$1.10; \$4.25 per 100.



RAINBOW MIXTURE TULIPS. \$6.90 per 100.



SYMPHONY TULIPS. Double and cherry red. \$1.10 per doz.; \$8.00 per 100.

RED EMPEROR. A glorious scarlet tulip of remarkable size and substance. \$1.20 per doz.; \$9.00 per 100.

PARROT TULIPS

BLUE PARROT. Bright violet color. \$1.30 per doz.; \$9.50 per 100.
FANTASY. Gorgeous pink Parrot Tulip. \$1.30 per doz.; \$9.50 per 100.
THERESE. A very large Parrot Tulip of a subdued scarlet color. \$1.40 per doz.; \$10.50 per 100.
PARROT TULIP COLLECTION. 4 each of blue, pink, and red. (12 bulbs.) \$1.35.

EXHIBITION DARWIN TULIPS, GROWN IN HOLLAND

Your Choice of any variety pictured below or Zwanenburg (White)

12 of one kind	\$1.10
25 of one kind	\$2.10
100 for	\$8.00
3 each of 5 varieties below (15 bulbs)	\$1.55
6 each of 5 varieties below (30 bulbs)	2.90
25 each of 5 varieties (125 bulbs)	9.90



LARGE BEDDING HYACINTHS

BISMARCK. (Left.) Bright blue.
KING OF THE BLUES. Dark blue.
L'INNOCENCE. Pure white.
CITY OF HAARLEM. Golden yellow.
JAN BOS. The finest brilliant scarlet hyacinth. Very early.
QUEEN OF THE PINKS. (Below.) One of the finest.
20¢ each; \$2.30 per doz.; \$18.00 per 100.

COLLECTION OF HYACINTHS

1 each of 5 colors shown below and dark blue\$1.10
3 each of these 6 colors 3.25
5 each of these 6 colors 5.40
Mixed Hyacinths: \$2.20 per doz.; \$17.00 per 100.

KING ALFRED. (Left.) A sturdy, hardy daffodil, ever popular. Blooms early. It is typical of the Yellow Trumpet class of daffodils. (Olympia is also a very fine example of this class.) \$1.10 per doz.; \$4.75 per peck; \$17.90 per bushel.

SCILLA CAMPANULATA. Like tiny hyacinths. Blue, rose, or white. State choice. 100 for \$3.50. Mixed colors 100 for \$3.25.

SCILLA SIBIRICA. Blue. 100 for \$3.50.

CHIONODOXA. (Glory of the Snow.) Ten or fifteen tiny blue flowers to a spike. 100 for \$2.25.

SNOWDROPS. Have tiny white bells; very early. 100 for \$4.00.

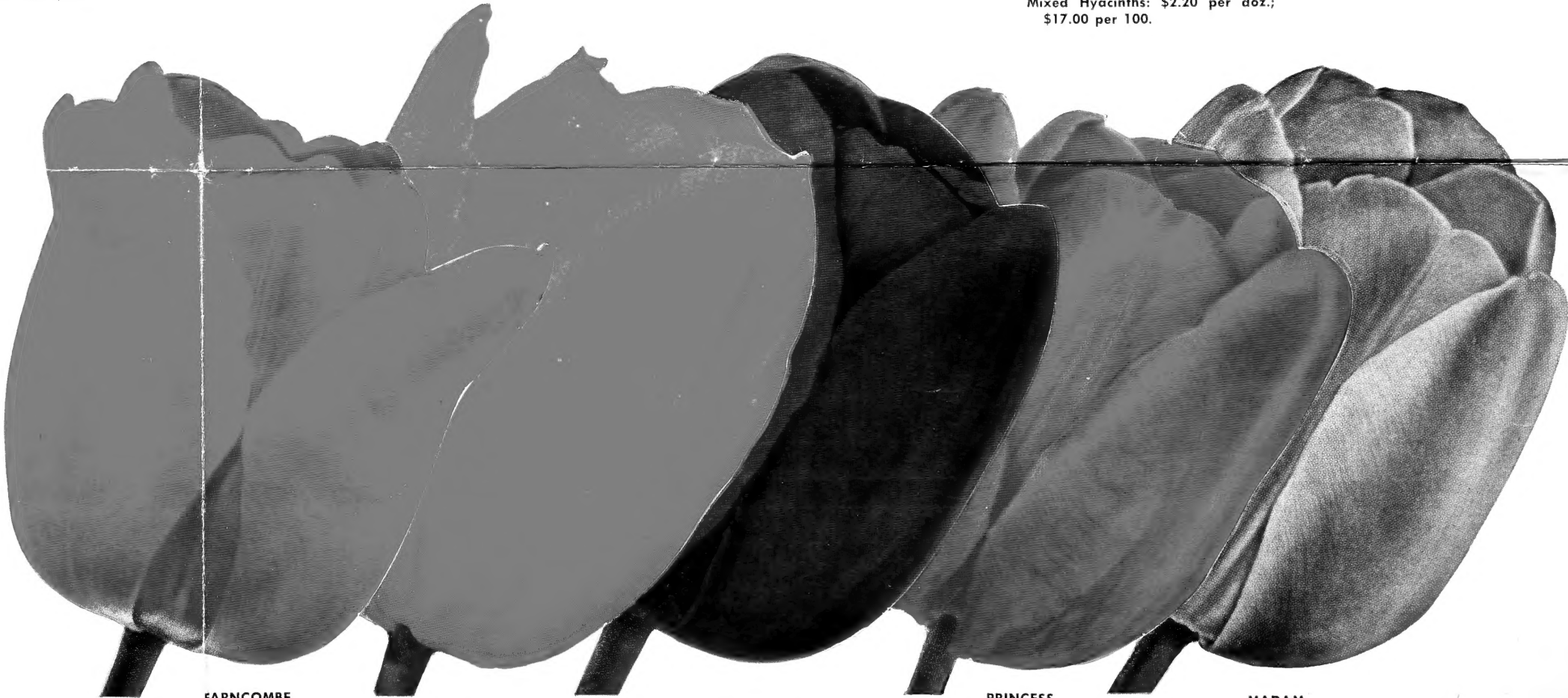
MUSCARI. (Grape hyacinths.) A cluster of tiny blue bells on a spike. 100 for \$3.50.

COLLECTION OF SMALL BULBS. 25 each of Scilla Campanulata, Scilla Sibirica, Chionodoxa, Snowdrops, and Muscari. 125 bulbs for \$4.20.

CAROLINA. (Left.) (Small Cup and typical of this class of daffodil. Note short length of cup in comparison with petal length.) An exceptionally tall, large flower. Pure white petals, orange cup. Late. 3 for 60¢; \$1.90 per doz.; \$15.00 per 100.

FRANCISCUS DRAKE. (Large Cup.) Similiar to Carolina in coloring but with longer, flaming orange cup. Midseason. \$1.20 per doz.; \$6.25 per peck; \$22.50 per bushel.

FORTUNE. (Left.) (Large Cup. Flowers of this class have cup more than one-third length of petals.) Famous for its sturdiness and fine coloring. Early. 3 for 50¢; \$1.60 per doz.; \$12.00 per 100.



FARNCOMBE SANDERS

SUNKIST

THE BISHOP

PRINCESS ELIZABETH MAXIMUS

MADAM BUTTERFLY



HELIOS (Large Cup)

Daffodils for Naturalizing

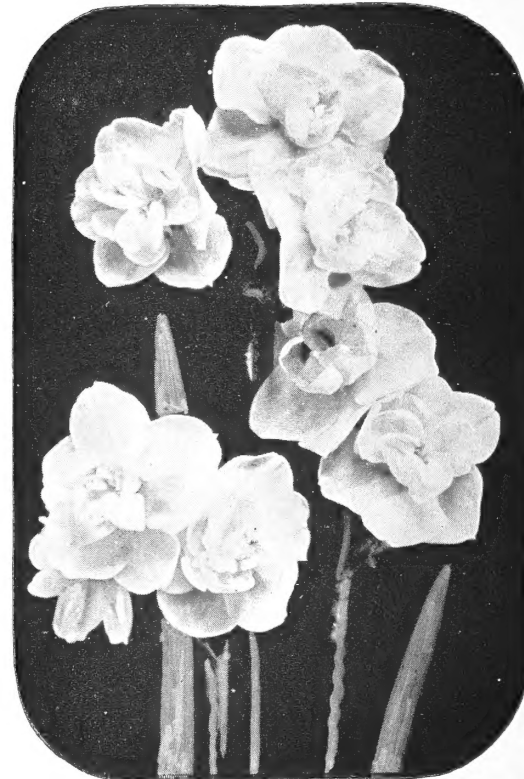
(A peck contains from 80 to 120 blooming-size bulbs.)

	Per Doz.	Per Peck	Per Bu.
KING ALFRED. (Yellow Trumpet.) Deep yellow, early. (See picture inside folder.)	\$1.10	\$4.75	\$17.90
OLYMPIA. (Yellow Trumpet.) A giant with deep golden yellow trumpet, lighter petals. Midseason	1.20	5.25	19.50
EMPEROR. (Yellow Trumpet.) Like Olympia, smaller	1.00	4.75	17.90
THE FIRST. (Yellow Trumpet.) Colored like Olympia, one of the first to bloom	1.00	4.75	17.90
FRANCISCUS DRAKE. (Large Cup.) White petals, flaming orange cup. Midseason	1.20	6.25	22.50
HELIOS. (Large Cup.) Golden yellow petals, cup a little darker, hardy and prolific. Early	1.00	4.75	17.90
ALCIDA. (Small Cup.) Citron-yellow cup with orange frill, wide cream petals. Late	1.20	6.25	22.50
CHEERFULNESS. (Double.) Several flowers to each stem, each with yellow center and white petals. Late	1.10	5.25	19.50

HANDMADE MIXTURES

(Mixed from named varieties at shipping time.)

See inside folder for descriptions and prices of **GLOUCESTER COUNTY MIXTURE**, **RIVER'S EDGE MIXTURE**, and **ALL YELLOW MIXTURE**.



CHEERFULNESS (Double)

Dear Friends and Gardeners:

Thank you for your interesting letters telling of the creative landscaping you have been doing with our bulbs. Starting with our exceptionally vigorous stocks of acclimated daffodil bulbs, or our imported bulbs of other types, you have produced beautiful garden spots.

Another birthday this spring put me well past the 75-year mark. Thank you, Mrs. Burns of Mississippi, for your amusing comment, "When folks get our age and realize our 'get up and go' has 'got up and gone', we naturally turn to knitting or flowers, etc." Assistance from my daughter and my young foreman helps me to cope physically with the work that must be done in maintaining a farm and business like mine.

When one plants one's first daffodils, it is quite satisfactory to start with yellows, such as King Alfred or our All Yellow Mixture. Later it is interesting to add new types with a Gloucester County or River's Edge Mixture or with some of our collections of varieties.

All varieties of daffodils listed by the bushel or peck are recommended for naturalizing. Giant trumpet types are more showy in a planting; smaller types of flowers will bloom for a greater number of years without being disturbed.

Sincerely,

(MRS.) SELINA L. HOPKINS

PAY ALL CHARGES on all bulbs, including our bushel and peck offers, to all points EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. CUSTOMERS LIVING WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER will please add ten per cent to our prices for DAFFODILS to help with transportation charges. (This is necessary because daffodil bulbs are heavy, and the cost of transporting them is quite high.) Tulips and all other bulbs will be sent any place in this country postpaid.

GUARANTEE: Our bulbs are guaranteed to reach you in first class condition and to be true to name. Packages should be opened at once on arrival and examined. Any molded bulbs reported within 10 days of receipt will be replaced free of charge.

PRICE LISTS: If you do not intend to plant bulbs this year, you will do us and one of your friends a favor by passing this list on to another gardener.

PLANTING TIME: All bulbs on our list should be planted in the fall before the ground freezes. We start to ship our accumulated daffodil orders about September 1st. The other kinds of bulbs are imported from Holland, and of course we cannot begin to ship them until they come, which is usually about October 1st. It is usually October 15th before our iris arrive from Holland.

ORDER AS EARLY as you can, please. Orders are filled in the order in which they are received except that orders from southern states are not filled until after September 20 unless early shipment is especially requested.

River's Edge Flower Farm

Nuttall, Gloucester Co., Virginia

Ship to:

(Please print name and address plainly)

Address:

Express Office.

(Only if different from Post Office)

Check, money order or cash enclosed for.

(Amount)

No C.O.D. Orders Please—All over-payments promptly refunded

PREPAYING OF SHIPMENTS: We prepay all charges on all bulbs, including our bushel and peck offers of daffodils, to all points east of the Mississippi River. Customers living west of the Mississippi River will please add ten per cent to our prices for daffodils to help with transportation charges. Tulips and all other bulbs will be sent any place in this country prepaid.

YOU MAY ORDER one-half bushel at the bushel rate. Six or more bulbs may be bought at the dozen rate and 25 bulbs at the 100 rate.

[illegible]

Cultural Directions Will Be Sent With Each Order

Ithaca, N. Y.
Nov. 7, 1953

Dear Mrs. Hopkins:

I thought I should write you and acknowledge the receipt of my order and tell you that your daffodil bulbs were the finest looking bulbs that I purchased this year.

We bought daffodil bulbs from 8 different sources this year, all of them well known daffodil bulb specialists and without question your bulbs were the cleanest and finest appearing bulbs of them all. Your bulbs were in excellent condition and also of very good size. Some of the bulbs from other sources which were represented as A-1 or top grade double nose bulbs were small, dirty, and spotted. A few were bruised and one was rotten.

I thought that I would write to tell you how much we appreciated your fine bulbs and request your catalogue for 1954.

Sincerely yours,
Professor George G. Gyrisco

Grey, Maine

Stephenville, Texas
July 17, 1953

Dear Friend:

Years ago I had bulbs from you. They are still with me thru 3 moves. Now I'm in need of more. Can you send me a catalog or price list? This is my last move—I hope. My narcissi have been a joy thru the years and I've thought of you so often—with thanks.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Annie White

Dear Mrs. Hopkins:

It's raining in Texas today. The first rain in many months. Much of our vegetation and bulbs are gone. I am going to stock up again on daffodils and tulips. The daffodils I have been getting from you have proven wonderful. . . . I want a bushel of King Alfred daffodils.

(Mrs.) Corinne B. Thompson
Campus Corner

Benton, Tennessee
Aug. 21, 1953

Dear Madam:

Enclosed find check for which please send me your mixed crocus collection.

I ordered a peck of mixed daffodils last fall and was the envy of all my neighbors last spring.

Thank you for many lovely blooms last spring and the enjoyment I expect to get from the crocus bulbs.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Ethel W. Largent

Birmingham, Ala.

My dear Mrs. Hopkins—

The bulbs you sent me last year flourished and gave much pleasure to us and to our neighbors. Now I want to add to them—and of course the new ones must come from you!

Sincerely,
Mrs. J. Lewis Underwood